

The Simple Life on a Farm.

An account of one day's work, done on a farm by a woman, sounds natural experience. We agree with the writer that there are worse things than living on a farm. The article is from the Rural New Yorker:

Having been much interested in the sketches of farm life in your paper, I send you one Saturday's work on a small farm in Erie Co., Pa., in the month of August. At 5 a. m. I don my morning suit, which consists of short skirt, shirt waist, heavy shoes and sunbonnet. Having started a fire in the kitchen range, I put the potatoes, which were cleaned the night before, on to boil, take the milk pail and wade through the dew across a 10-acre field to milk my cow, a process which takes about half an hour. Hastening home as fast as a large pail of milk and heavy, wet shoes will allow, I soon have the milk strained and skimmed. I then fly to the house to find the potatoes cooked and the table set by my little daughter, 10 years old. At six a. m. we sit down to breakfast, which consists of boiled potatoes, soft boiled eggs, bread, butter, fresh tomatoes, new milk, sliced cucumbers, oatmeal and cream, after which the real work of the day begins. First, I feed four broods and flocks of chickens, feed a pig, go to the barn and water the horse. I forgot to mention the good man of the house is a tradesman, and works in the city. After the farm chores are done I do the churning, and as I have customers who want fresh butter, I must work the butter into rolls at once. After the churning is done and things washed, baking must be done. After five loaves of bread, four pies, a panful of fruit cake and one of beans are finished I find I have one hour of time for the garden. I hasten with basket to the garden, where I fill orders for a half bushel of tomatoes, half bushel of cucumbers, a bushel of sweet corn, one bushel of potatoes. I then rush to the milk house and count and wash the week's gathering of eggs. By this time my little daughter announces dinner is ready.

In the meantime she has cleaned and filled the lamps, washed dishes, tidied the kitchen, dusted the sitting room and parlor and made the beds. After the dinner of raised biscuit, butter, baked beans, fresh apple pie and blackberries and cream, I retire to the chamber and change my short suit, take a bath and comb my hair, after which I go to the barn, feed and water the horse, feed the chickens and pig, curry the horse, run out the buggy, harness the horse, and retire to the house, where I sleep the sleep of the just for one hour. On waking I feel much refreshed. I then change my dress for my driving suit, which consists of a denim skirt, linen waist and sailor hat, hitch Billy to the buggy, load in the produce which I prepared in the forenoon, and with my little daughter start for town, two miles away. The day being fine, we enjoy the ride immensely. Having customers for my produce, I have no difficulty in disposing of my load, and at the same time take orders for next Saturday. Farm truck being scarce today, I receive the following for my load in this little town: One bushel potatoes, 70 cents; eight dozen sweet corn, 80 cents; eight dozen cucumbers, 80 cents; one-half bushel tomatoes, 40 cents; eight dozen eggs at 22 cents, \$1.76; five pounds butter at 22 cents, \$1.10; total \$5.56. As I lived in town for 15 years and am acquainted with almost everybody, I visited longer than I ought to have done, but the roads being good and Billy a flyer I arrived home in good time for supper. The good man has come from his week's work, and we do the evening chores together, after which we count our week's earnings and plan how soon the mortgage will be paid, after which we sit on the doorstep and visit until bed time. There might be worse things than

living on a farm. Anyway, I enjoy my busy life; between my hours of work I enjoy myself with my flowers and in many ways which are denied to the city woman.

Our Potato Failure.

Two weeks ago we gave a report of the estimated shortage of the potato crop. Here is a definite account of the conditions in one potato growing section, as it appeared in the Ohio Farmer:

We are not alone. There are others and plenty of them this year. There is the most complete failure of potatoes this year that we ever saw. The early ones mostly rotted in the ground before they were up, and what escaped the rot at that time, rotted when they were grown to full size. Last fall we selected a good place for early potatoes, fall plowed the ground, disked and fertilized at the rate of 600 lb. per acre in the spring, selected twelve bushels of the choicest potatoes for seed, cut to one eye and planted two pieces in a hill 33 inches apart both ways. We have always, before, planted in drills, but we thought they could be cultivated better if planted both ways.

Six weeks later, after the first planting was drowned out, we planted six bushels more, but they too were ruined by the rain. It made no difference how high or well drained the land was this year, the cold and wet got their work in on the potatoes in good shape. Out of our eighteen bushels of planting we did not get a bushel and will have to buy our seed for another spring.

We planted our late potatoes June 23, and for a week at that time the land was in excellent condition. The potatoes got well sprouted before any more rains came, and they came up in a somewhat stunted condition, and it seemed hard to tell for a while which would beat out in the race—the potatoes or weeds but the ground dried off and the weather became warm and by my having them planted in rows both ways, our cultivator with wide shovels soon settled the fate of the weeds.

The potatoes grew very rapidly and soon covered the ground, and there was a mass of white blossoms all over the patch. This patch was the envy of the whole neighborhood. But blight struck them, as it did all other patches, and in two weeks they were entirely dead; and while we should have had 200 bushels per acre we are now digging at the rate of 40 bushels per acre, over half of which are too small for table. We have very frequently been troubled with the blight on our early potatoes, but it is the first time we have been troubled with our late ones.

Potatoes are selling at 70 cents a bushel from our local stores, the highest in my recollection at this time of year.

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Sharpes, Fla., Jan. 25, 1905.

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